



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO PLEAD GUILTY IN COCAINE, CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACIES AFTER NARCOTICS FOUND AT HOME DAY CARE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the owner of a home day care in Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, some of which was found in her home while children were present under her care. A co-defendant also pleaded guilty in federal court today to separate but related charges of conspiring to distribute powder cocaine.

Valeriece D. Ealom, 35, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to participating in a conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in Kansas City, Mo., between Nov. 1, 2002, and Sept. 10, 2003.

Ealom sold crack cocaine from her residence at 2920 Wabash in Kansas City, Graves said, where she also operated a home day-care center. When law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at **Ealom's** residence on Sept. 10, 2003, they found 36.98 grams of crack cocaine hidden in a plastic bag in the pipes of the toilet and in an office area just inside the front door. They also found a loaded Beretta 9 mm handgun with seven live rounds in the clip, and a Norinco 12-gauge shotgun loaded with five live rounds. Seven or eight children were found in and around the residence.

Under federal statutes, **Ealom** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Clifford E. Dorsey, 43, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to participating in a conspiracy to distribute powder cocaine.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Dorsey** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, some of which he arranged to have transported from California to Kansas City, between Nov. 1, 2002, and Sept. 10, 2003. Dorsey also agreed to forfeit to the government any proceeds of the cocaine conspiracy or property used to further the conspiracy, including:

- * Approximately \$5,015 seized from **Dorsey** on March 7, 2003
- * A 1994 Lexus GS 300 that **Dorsey** was driving, which was seized on March 7, 2003
- * Approximately \$1,876 seized on Sept. 10, 2003, from **Dorsey**
- * A 1993 Jeep Cherokee that **Dorsey** was driving, which was seized on Sept. 10, 2003
- * **Dorsey's** residence at 9719 S. Oakley in Kansas City

Dorsey was arrested on Sept. 10, 2003, while attempting to deliver 120 grams of cocaine to **Ealom**.

On the same day, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant on **Dorsey's** home and vehicle. Officers found approximately 30 grams of crack cocaine inside the residence, Graves said, as well as a Taurus .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun with eight live rounds in the magazine.

Under federal statutes, **Dorsey** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

On May 10, 2004, co-defendant **Megashia C. Jackson**, 28, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty to being in possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute.

Prior to the execution of the search warrant at **Dorsey's** residence, Graves said, officers observed **Jackson** arrive in a gold Cadillac. She began carrying items from inside the residence out to the driveway and placing the items at the rear of the Cadillac, then opened the trunk and placed some of the items inside the trunk of the Cadillac. After detaining **Jackson** in the front yard of the residence, officers searched a black trash bag that was sitting on the driveway just to the rear of the open trunk of the Cadillac, which contained approximately 1,100 grams of cocaine. Law enforcement officers also recovered 888 grams of marijuana from **Jackson's** vehicle.

Jackson admitted that **Dorsey** had directed her to remove illegal narcotics from his residence. Those narcotics, Graves said, were intended to be distributed at a later date.

By pleading guilty, **Jackson** also agreed to forfeit to the government a 1994 Cadillac seized at the time of her arrest.

Under federal statutes, **Jackson** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow